



# PLANNING **Raleigh** 2030

A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

## **The State of Raleigh Today**

Raleigh is one of North Carolina's fastest growing communities. It continues to attract new residents and business from around the country. Growth has brought the city economic prosperity but also threatens to overwhelm the resources, quality of life and sense of place that have been hallmarks of the community.

Raleigh has many assets. The city has a highly educated population and many higher education institutions. The city's downtown core has a renewed vibrancy as a center of government, business and entertainment; and, increasingly, as a residential address.

Raleigh has called itself a "City within a Park" and has also been known as the "City of Oaks." These monikers evoke images of a city rich in natural resources, green and sustainable and brimming with parks and recreational opportunities. Growth, however, is consuming ever more of the natural resource base and straining the capacity of vital infrastructure.

The city faces real challenges ahead. Raleigh must manage growth and balance that growth with infrastructure. It must protect and enhance its natural resources, implement green and sustainable building practices and focus on community building. As growth continues the city must define a transit future by coordinating land use and transportation and increasing cooperation within the region.

The city has great strengths and can build on these to increase its livability, the prosperity of its residents, and its national reputation as a great city.